

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00528 132020Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
 INRE-00 /073 W

-----129064 132036Z /72

O 131819Z APR 78
FM AMEMBAESY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4233
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
RUE CR/AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE PRIORITY 122
AMEMBASSY PRIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EFIS NS GY
SUBJ: FURTHER ON SURINAM-GUYANA RELATIONS

REF: PARAMARIBO 521

1. AMBASSADOR OF GUYANA TO SURINAM SAUL, CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR MORNING APRIL 73 TO DISCUSS NOTE HE HAD DELIVERED
YESTERDAY TO PRIME MINISTER ARRON (REFTEL). WHILE SAUL'S
ACCOUNT WAS GENERALLY THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN BY HIS
SUBORDINATE OFFICER (WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE), HE CHARACTER-
IZED THE CALL FOR FURTHER TALKS AS AN "INVITATION FOR
SURINAM TO SEND A DELEGATION TO GEORGETOWN" RATHER THAN A
DEMAND. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT GOG WOULD REALLY BE IN A
POSITION TO TALK WITH SURINAM DURING PRIME MINISTER
BURNHAM'S EXTENDED ABSENCE, SAUL SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS
MEANINGFUL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD REMAINED IN
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GEORGETOWN RATHER THAN TRAVEL WITH BURNHAM, WHICH
WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USUAL; IN ANY EVENT BURHNAM WOULD
BE BACK IN EARLY MAY AND THINGS DID NOT HAVE TO MOVE
FASTER TMAN THAT. SAUL DID NOT PROFESS TO HAVE ANY
IDEA OF WHAT WOULD NOW TRANSPIRE.

2. AT NOON RECEPTION, PRIME MINISTER ARRON TOOK AMBASSADOR

ASIDE AND TOLD HIM HE SHOULD EXPECT TO BE CALLED IN EARLY NEXT WEEK TO HEAR A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF GOS REACTION TO THE GUYANESE NOTE. ARRON SAID THE NOTE WAS IN VERY STRONG TERMS AND WAS GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT BURNHAM WAS USING THIS AS A DEVICE TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, SOMETHING HE HAS DONE BEFORE, SURINAM WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS KIND OF TREATMENT, HOWEVER, AND GOS WOULD BE HARD PUT TO PREVENT REPRISALS AGAINST THE FOUR THOUSAND OR SO GUYANESE IN SURINAM WHEN THE DETAILS OF THE NOTE COME OUT. ARRON SAID THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED THE NOTE WITH PARLIAMENT AND IS STUDYING CERTAIN OF THE POINTS BROUGHT UP IN IT AND WANTS TO BRIEF THE AMBASSADOR AS SOON AS HIS STUDIES ARE COMPLETE.

3. COMMENT: ARRON'S REPORTED (PARA 4 REFTTEL) CALM ACCEPTANCE OF NOTE MAY WELL HAVE COVERED A STRONG ADVERSE REACTION. IN OUR VIEW, RESPECTIVE INTERESTS, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF AN ECONOMIC OR COMMERCIAL NATURE WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE GOS TREATMENT OF THIS MATTER, WITH FACE, PRESTIGE AND NATIONAL SENTIMENT BEING THE MAIN PROBLEMS FOR SURINAM. THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAM AND GUYANA WILL IMPROVE WITHOUT FIRST DETERIORATING FURTHER WITH THE ALWAYS-POSSIBLE DANGER OF A BREAK IN RELATIONS OR PHYSICAL CLASH.

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